

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided, for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement by return of the Form PTO-1449, and for the acknowledgment of Applicant's Claim for Priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the Official Action.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 8-10 and 15-17 contain allowable subject matter, on page 4 of the Official Action.

Upon entry of the above amendments the Title and claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 18 will have been amended, and claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 14 and 15 will have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 6, 9-13 and 16-19 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

Applicant notes that the Title has been amended to be more descriptive. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the Title.

Applicant notes that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 8, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Applicant further notes that claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form, and to include the subject matter of claim 15, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

Applicant notes that claims 1-6 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, and that claims 7, 12-14, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103.

P24450.A05

As noted above, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include subject matter which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of the allowance of all of the pending claims.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so.

Any amendments to the claims that have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Rojerio Jun MIZUNO



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

Daniel B. Moon
Reg. No. 48,214

December 21, 2006
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191